

# Disaster Resistant Times

## Shenandoah Valley Project Impact

### Citizen Corps Council and CERT Member Newsletter

#### April/May 2007



#### Coordinator's Corner

This year, National Volunteer Week will be held April 15 - 21st. The theme this year is, **"Inspire by Example"**. When I think about each of you, our Citizen Corps and CERT volunteers, your commitment, enthusiasm, and creativity constantly inspires me! Your involvement with Shenandoah Valley Project Impact serves as a shining example of how people can make a difference in the lives of so many others in their community. National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate people's willingness to help their communities through public service. During this time of celebration, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your willingness to serve the public through Shenandoah Valley Project Impact! Thank you for your participation - what an inspirational group of people you are!

**"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world"**

- Anne Frank



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

April 15-21, 2007

#### Advanced CERT Training Scheduled For May 8th

**"Disasters and Wildlife"** will be the topic of the Advanced CERT training scheduled for **Tuesday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission Office**. Our presenter will be Patty Bright an educator with the Wildlife Center of Virginia. Wildlife can be adversely affected during severe weather. This is a topic that we can all learn more about so please consider attending. **CERT members please contact Rebecca Joyce by phone at 540-885-5174 or by email at [rebecca@cspdc.org](mailto:rebecca@cspdc.org) if you plan to attend** and for directions to the CSPDC office.

#### World Premier Showing of "Flooding in the Valley of Virginia"

The Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC) invites the public to a debut screening of their film, "Flooding in the Valley of Virginia", which is directed and produced by Ed Spenser. The screening will be held at the RACC Office located at 101 South Main Street, 2nd Floor, in Lexington on Tuesday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. For additional information, please contact Barbara Walsh at 540-463-2330 or by email at [racc@rockbridge.net](mailto:racc@rockbridge.net).

#### Homeland Security Symposium Scheduled

James Madison University's Institute for Infrastructure and Information Assurance in partnership with the Federal Facilities Council of the National Academies will host a homeland security symposium entitled, "Cascading Infrastructure Failures: Avoidance and Response" on May 16, 2007 at the National Academy of Sciences. Lt. General Russel L. Honoré, United States Army, will be the afternoon keynote speaker. General Honoré recently commanded Joint Task Force - Katrina, leading the Department of Defense response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. For more information about the symposium check out the JMU IIIA's website at [www.jmu.edu/iiia/2007symposium](http://www.jmu.edu/iiia/2007symposium). The symposium is limited to the first 350 registrants and you must RSVP by April 27.

This newsletter is published by:  
**Shenandoah Valley Project Impact**  
C/O Central Shenandoah PDC; 112 MacTanly Place;  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
Phone: 540-885-5174; E-mail: [cspdc@cspdc.org](mailto:cspdc@cspdc.org)



### Crime Prevention Tip

If you have the type of car alarm that you can activate from your keychain, also known as a panic button, you may have a burglar alarm for your home as well. Here is a handy tip from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Put your keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. The alarm will help to scare off an intruder because of the noise and the fact that neighbors will be looking out their windows to see what is going on. If you have this type of car alarm it should work from any room in your house and whether your car is in the driveway or the garage. This can also work for you as you walk to your car in a parking lot if you keep your keys in your hand. Just think of your car alarm as an additional security system that requires no installation.

## New Tornado Scale

As of February 1, 2007, the new Enhanced Fujita Scale replaced the Fujita scale which was used to measure the intensity of tornadoes. The new scale now takes into account how most structures are designed and it will be easier to rate tornadoes which strike few structures. Like the old scale, wind speeds will be estimated by actual tornado damage.

### Six Categories of the Enhanced Fujita Scale:

| Category | Damage              | Wind Speed    |
|----------|---------------------|---------------|
| EF0      | Light damage        | 65 - 85 mph   |
| EF1      | Moderate damage     | 86 - 110 mph  |
| EF2      | Considerable damage | 111 - 135 mph |
| EF3      | Severe damage       | 136 - 165 mph |
| EF4      | Devastating damage  | 166 - 200 mph |
| EF5      | Incredible damage   | > 200 mph*    |

\* No EF5 tornadoes have yet been recorded.

### Are Your Pets Prepared?

When creating a disaster plan for your family - don't forget some of your most important family members - your pets. If you have to leave your home because it is not safe for you, it is also not safe for your animals. If you have to go to an emergency shelter, you can not take your pets with you.

- Have a plan of where to take your pets if disaster strikes. A family member, friend, vet, or boarding kennel may be willing to take your pet but you have to ask them in advance of an emergency or disaster.
- When you leave your home with your pet, they need a disaster supply kit too. Make sure your pet's kit contains pet food, water, food dishes, medication, cat litter (for cats), your pet's medical records, favorite toys and a photo of you with your pet for identification purposes.
- Keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date.
- Make sure you have a portable kennel carrier or crate for each of your pets. Carriers should be large enough for your pet to stand up and turn around in.
- Make sure your pet wears a comfortable collar with the proper identification, license and rabies tag. A microchip or tattoo can also give you added insurance that your pet can be easily identified.

